

THE PRESIDENT'S INTELLIGENCE CHECKLIST

9 JUNE 1962
~~TOP SECRET~~

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1. Laos

a. Phoumi told Ambassador Brown yesterday that he was encouraged by the fact that the three princes had agreed at the Khang Khay meeting to the principle of unanimity in the conduct of foreign affairs as well as the operations of the Defense and Interior Ministries. He indicated, however, that he was not satisfied with several of Souvanna's proposals for the division of cabinet posts and that he objected to some of the people Souvanna has nominated for top positions. We anticipate more hard bargaining on these matters on Monday when the three sides gather again for what may well be a decisive meeting.

b. Pro-Souvanna forces in northern Laos are still receiving at least token assistance--such as small quantities of medicines--from Communist China, despite their currently strained relations with the Pathet Lao and Viet Minh. The fact that these supplies are picked up at the border suggests that the Chinese have not yet established their own logistic pipeline into Laos.

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2. Communist China - South Vietnam

We are in possession of firm evidence that Peiping, presumably anxious to get American forces out of Southeast Asia, is attempting to convene an international conference to negotiate a settlement of the South Vietnam problem.

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3. USSR

a.

last month Khrushchev told a group of Soviet officials he had decided to postpone the next Soviet nuclear test series for six to eight months. This fits with what we know of activity around Novaya Zemlya, which has died down after a period during which it looked as if tests were imminent.

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b. A Category "C" test vehicle was launched from Tyuratam to the Kamchatka Peninsula last night. The Soviets thus achieved their fourth success in six tries at firing this improved "second-generation" missile during 1962.

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4. Bloc economic conference

The strictly routine conference communiqué issued in Moscow last night was out of harmony with a meeting requiring the presence of so many top-drawer Communist leaders. It will probably be at least several days before we receive any meaningful information as to what actually went on. We note, however, that the communiqué reflected the Sino-Soviet cleavage by announcing that Mangolia, a staunch Moscow supporter, has been promoted to full membership in CEMA, whereas the other Asian Communist countries are not even listed among those attending the meeting as observers.

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6. Indonesia - West
New Guinea

a. Sukarno seemed to agree with Jones yesterday that there is not much difference between the Indonesian and Dutch approaches to the Bunker proposals. "The light was dawning" on the prospects for a resumption of talks, he said, but he indicated that the sun would not rise above the horizon until he had received ironclad assurances that the Dutch were willing to transfer the administration over West New Guinea to Indonesia prior to a plebiscite.

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b. In West New Guinea, Dutch authorities say they have the military situation well in hand, and that steps are being taken to stop Indonesian airdrop of men and supplies.

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the Indonesians have, in fact, suffered heavy casualties, and that some army officers are developing doubts of their ability to maintain an effective guerrilla force in New Guinea, let alone mount an all-out invasion any time soon.

7. South Korea

a. Prime Minister Song Yo Chan told Ambassador Berger yesterday that he had submitted his resignation, to become effective in a week or ten days. This, coming on top of other indications of mounting strains within the ruling junta, suggests that South Korea is about to enter another period of political instability, the outcome of which we are unable to predict.

b. Students, meanwhile, are still emotionally worked up over the status-of-forces issue, and there was a small demonstration this morning at Taegu, 150 miles southeast of Seoul. Rumors are rife that the students are being goaded to go back into the streets by various anti-government groups who hope to benefit from fishing in any troubled waters they might be able to stir up. Security forces are on the alert, but their effectiveness is suspect since they basically sympathize with the students.

NOTES

- A. Peiping, scarcely veiling a threat to unleash a new surge of humanity against Hong Kong's ramparts if it is ignored, has warned the British three times in the past few days against facilitating the movement of Chinese refugees to Taiwan.
- B. In Angola, Holden Roberto is said to be on the verge of making common cause with Communist-oriented insurgents in response to pressure from certain Asian-African states, and because he lacks the material wherewithal to keep his forces operating as an independent entity.
- C. Tomorrow's local elections in Italy, involving about 10 percent of the electorate, should provide the best evidence to date on how well Fanfani's "opening to the left" type of government has gone down with the public.
- D. The clandestine Viet Cong radio announced on Tuesday that US Sergeant George Fryett, who disappeared from Saigon last Christmas, is in Communist hands and in good health. He is alleged to have expressed regret for having involuntarily participated in "armed aggression" against South Vietnam, and to have petitioned for "amnesty" which, we suspect, will be granted for its propaganda value.
- E. The Soviet Ambassador to Cuba left for home on Friday reportedly grumbling that it was well nigh impossible for him to carry out Moscow's rigid instructions and at the same time please the Cubans, who were forever changing their minds on what they wanted from the USSR and when they wanted it.
- F. the Soviets have begun to put pressure on Lebanon to grant them air transit routes through Beirut.

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DOCUMENTS OF INTEREST

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II.

[Redacted]

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THE DIRECTOR OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE